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**MARY MILLER CRACRAFT APPOINTED NLRB  
ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUDGE IN SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE**

The National Labor Relations Board announced today that Judge Mary Miller Cracraft has been selected as the new Associate Chief Administrative Law Judge in charge of the San Francisco office of its Division of Judges. She will succeed Judge William Schmidt, who is stepping down after serving eight years as Associate Chief Judge but will continue as an active trial judge.

The San Francisco office of the Judges Division docket and handles cases in the western part of the United States. The Judges Division, which also has offices in Washington, D.C., Atlanta and New York, is responsible for docketing cases, conducting hearings and issuing initial decisions in unfair labor practice cases arising under the National Labor Relations Act. Those decisions may thereafter be appealed to the five-Member Board, an independent agency created in 1935 to administer and enforce the Act, whose decisions are subject to review by the U. S. Courts of Appeals.

Judge Cracraft has been an NLRB judge for 10 years. Before her appointment as an Administrative Law Judge, Judge Cracraft had a distinguished career in labor relations law, as an attorney in private practice and at the Board. She served a five-year term as a Member of the Board from 1986 to 1991. Judge Cracraft, a native of Kansas City, MO, received both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Missouri. She will assume her new duties on January 10, 2005.

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